



# PROJECT ChildHelp

June 2001

## Who We Are

**Project ChildHelp, Inc.** is a non-profit Christian organization under laws of the state of Florida. We are dedicated to reaching out to the forgotten children in the orphanages of the **Dominican Republic** by providing humanitarian relief and meeting their spiritual needs.

## Why We Exist

Our purpose is to provide the resources to meet the needs of these children by providing humanitarian aid. Additionally, as a Christian-based organization, we will communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to all children.

## What We Do

We provide humanitarian relief to meet the most basic human needs (i.e., food, clothing, diapers, vitamins, medicine, immunizations, etc.). Through a cooperative effort with local churches and concerned local citizens in the Dominican Republic, we help establish an on-going support plan where local Christians are challenged to a deeper involvement. This aspect of the ministry is overseen by volunteers of APEN in the Dominican Republic (This organization is recognized in the United States as CEF-Child Evangelism Fellowship). **Project ChildHelp** assists these volunteers by inviting them to play an important role in bringing new life to their own forgotten children.

## How We Do It

Through teams of committed Prayer Partners and individual Christian prayer warriors throughout the U.S. and the Dominican Republic, we intercede daily for the needs of the mission, personnel, volunteers and of course, the children. Additionally, we are assisted by the people whom God sends our way to support **Project ChildHelp**, not just financially, but also through their skills, talents and God-given gifts.

## A Little Bit Goes A Long Way

By Lourdes Valladares

Since September of 1999 when we began organizing mission trips to the Dominican Republic, we have been taking teams of Doctors and Nurses to care for the forgotten children in several orphanages. Our next mission trip is scheduled to leave Miami on July 27, 2001. We are taking a team of local Pediatricians and Nurses, and members of the youth group from First Baptist Church of Coral Park in Miami, Florida.

We work with three orphanages in the Dominican Republic, two in Santo Domingo called the Luby Homes, which houses children who are severely developmentally disabled, with neurological disorders that have most of them unable to walk or communicate; the other orphanage is in Nagua and it houses 28 girls.

Participating in these mission trips has given us first hand experience in how we can literally save lives with just a little bit of effort and dedication. Given the poor hygienic conditions and lack of staff at these orphanages, we hired four workers in Santo Domingo (one of them being a nurse and three child-care workers), whose salaries are paid by PCH. We have set up a network of volunteers in the Dominican Republic, most of them from local churches, to assist us in carrying out our mission.



*Malnourished boy receiving emergency tube feeding*

Our main objective since PCH began almost two years ago has been to see that the children receive sufficient nourishment and a daily bath. This was not been provided before. As these essential needs are being met and the children are receiving three meals a day, we have been able to turn our efforts to other areas of need.

*Following are a few of our key accomplishments and areas that we are focusing at this time:*

1) We have been able to donate a computer so that we can communicate on line with our staff there without the expense of telephone calls and faxes. We are currently working on developing a web page for PCH, but that goal is still a little ways down the road.

See page 4 "A Little Bit Goes A Long Way" for continuation to the story



# Project ChildHelp's Goals for the Near Future

By O. Frank Valladares

As we prepare to embark on our next missions trip (July 27-31) to the Dominican Republic, I'd like to recap on some of the needs that we observed during our last visit.

On the positive side, there were significant improvement with several of the children at the Luby homes.

Many of these changes were objective and measurable. For instance, we were able to record significant weight gains for many of the children. The human care for the children also improved considerably. Cappuccino, the little boy who was kept in a cage during our prior trip, is now in a bed, albeit tethered by the ankle to the bed post. The bad news is that the cages are still there, and children are still being kept behind bars.

However, some positive changes are directly attributable to the efforts of *Project ChildHelp's* staff. These are individuals who were hand picked by PCH for their loving care and dedication to the children, and their salaries are paid entirely by *Project ChildHelp*. We have also been supplying, the Luby homes, on a monthly basis, with children's formula, and other nutritional items. Additionally, we brought with us on our last trip close to 2000 pounds worth of medical supplies, clothing, nutritional items, diapers, rubber gloves,

**We are thrilled to report that we now have acquired tax exempt status under Chapter 501 (c) 3 of the Internal revenue Code (No. 52-2203362). Your gifts are tax deductible!**

**Thank you for your gifts and prayers. May God bless you abundantly.**



*Frank Valladares holding Henry. Henry has gained 20 pounds since this photo was taken.*

and even a computer to be able to communicate with our people in the Dominican Republic, online.

*We have decided to take some concrete steps... to build a home constructed through the joint efforts of labor from volunteer mission...and the local labor force*

On the down side, the administration at Luby has now seen fit to cut back on their own staff, which has, to some extent, negated our efforts of increasing the staff to provide better care for the children, but the bottom line is that these children are receiving better care, and their health seems to be

## Please share this newsletter with a friend

If you think your friends and/or family would like to receive our newsletter, please return the following portion to us.

Thank you for helping us spread the news about these children and their needs.

### PROJECT ChildHelp

66 West Flagler Street, 2nd Fl. • Miami, FL 33130  
Tel: (305) 271-0467 • email: projchild@aol.com



Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter from *Project ChildHelp*. Please add my name to your mailing list.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: projchild@aol.com

*continued from page 2*

improving, although the conditions are still sub-human. We visited a home for children with HIV and AIDS operated by Catholic nuns, and the love and care those children receive was very encouraging. We were able to witness how a well run home operates. However, we came away with the impression that the administration at Luby is taking advantage of our efforts and goodwill. Only through seeing the improvement in the children's health are we able to continue our efforts. Their well-being makes it all worthwhile.

Just about every day of our visit when we would arrive at Luby in the morning, all of the children would be naked, and we later found out that the owner of Luby had instructed her staff not to do anything for the children.

She said, "let the Americans take care of them." This has led us to the conclusion that it might be better to build a home for these children ourselves rather than to try to assist the Luby homes. We increased our contacts in Dominican Republic on our last trip, and even consulted legal counsel as to the possibility of building a home there. We have decided to take some concrete steps in that direction, and we are now in the process of registering *Project ChildHelp* as a Dominican Corporation. This will ease our ability to do business there, and will open the door to acquiring land. We are also increasing the size of our Board of Directors, and it will soon be comprised of nine members, six from the United States, and three from the Dominican Republic. Our dream is to acquire land to build a home constructed through the joint efforts of labor from volunteer mission trips from the United States, and the local labor force.

## The Forgotten Children

By William I. Muiños, M.D.

I will tell you of a place on this beautiful planet where children with physical and mental handicaps lie on cold cement floors, or rigid beds, or even in metal cages, sometimes covered in their own excrement, urine or vomitus, where flies agglomerate around decubitus ulcers, or encrusted mucous membranes.

I will tell you of a place where children are not given water so they will not urinate, where meals are rationed out according to their ability to eat or availability. I will tell you of place where the bitterness of cold and suffocation of heat are treated with the same indifference; where the rejuvenating light of day is merely a stranger never to be seen, where a human touch, tenderness and compassion are just as scarce as bread and water. I will tell you of place where the stench of abandoned humanity will consume anyone who enters its domain and incapacitate you with an uncontrollable need to retch out every essence of such a horrid place.

People ask me, then why do you go there? How can you help? Why there? This world is filled with places such as this one, why waste your time where there is no hope for change? You know that poverty and misery have always been part of the human drama.

My answer to all of those people with all of those questions is to look at Our Lord Jesus Christ's own words concerning faith, hope and love: 1 Corinthians 13.

Faith, a faith which the medical team and all of its workers demonstrated in tackling this insurmountable project, which was to restore this den of misery into a home of dignity.

Hope, the fuel that drives the soul to persevere under adversity. You can see it in the eyes of these poor, unfortunate children as the medical team consisting of doctors, students, nurses, pastors, teachers and other laypersons lovingly administer the basic human needs of warmth, cleanliness, comfort and nourishment.

Love, the greatest of all gifts. This

was probably the strongest reason to be at "El Hogar Luby".

To see the kindness, tenderness and generosity delivered by the medical mission team was truly a precious experience for me. There is a certain glowing beauty, which is generated in the presence of true love. You could see in the sweaty faces of the mission workers as they went about their endless tasks, slowly transforming that den of misery into a home of dignity.



*Little girl smiling after receiving a meal*

Three months have passed, and I again visit "El Hogar Luby". The children look better fed, the home and clinic where the mission team started looks in fair conditions. There are more workers which have been provided by **Project ChildHelp**, however, this is only the beginning. These forgotten children can never be abandoned again.

We must thank our Lord Jesus Christ for giving us so many blessings; now it is time for you to give back. With the gift of faith, hope and love, we can make these islands of despair and misery into fountains of life. ■

continued from page 1

2) We installed a sound system at one of the Luby Homes to bring Christian music to the children.

3) Our goal is to increase our staff to care for the children by at least two more workers by the end of the year. The home in under renovation and it has gone from 70 children to 130 without a corresponding increase in the staff. The owner of this facility has been accused of abuse and neglect and is being investigated. This made headlines news in Santo Domingo newspapers. Our four workers are still there despite worsening conditions in some areas. We had a dispute with the owner because she wanted to assign our workers to take care of mentally handicapped adults (which she also houses at her facilities. PCH had to send urgent messages to the owner that our workers were there for the children only and not to take care of adults.

4) Funding is urgently needed to pay the salaries of our workers, who work 6 days a week, 10 to 14 hours per day, as well as providing for the essentials for the children (Food, milk, diapers, medical care, medicines, vitamins, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, etc.).

5) We are currently preparing documents to incorporate PCH (which is a Florida not-for-profit corporation) as a Dominican Republic corporation to facilitate the future purchase of land to build our own home for the children.

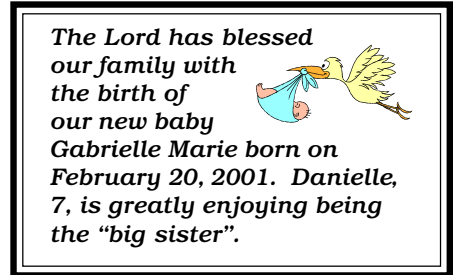
6) We are currently working on preparing profiles of each individual child (name, age, health records, photographs, height and weight, progress reports, etc.).

7) Ongoing fundraising efforts are:

- Garage Sales
- Sorting, washing, repairing of donated clothes
- Picking up donated baby formula and medicines at various pediatricians offices
- Acquiring frequent flyer miles from donors to facilitate mission trips to the Dominican Republic
- Preparing to use 900 donated bottles for distribution to business, homes, and churches for collection of loose change.

**AREAS OF CONCERNS AND NEEDS:**

- 1) Contributions to help meet the payments of the monthly salary for our workers (monthly salary per worker is US \$250.00).
- 2) Need fundraising ideas and **volunteers to carry it through.**
- 3) Most of all we need lots of prayer for these children.



**Making A Difference: There Are Various Ways In Which You Can Help**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. I would like to become a prayer warrior. Please provide me with a list of your prayer needs | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. I would like to donate money for the purchase of urgently needed items, including food, medicines and vitamins Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. I would like to donate items  | Name: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. I would like to help with the sorting and preparation of goods to be sent                   | Address: _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. I would like more information and possibly join <b>ChildHelp</b> in the next Missions Team  | City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. I wish to volunteer my time for fundraising events  | Tel: _____ E-mail Address: _____ (Optional)  |

**Project ChildHelp, Inc.**  
66 West Flagler Street, 2nd Floor  
Miami, FL 33130

Project ChildHelp, Inc. is a non-profit Christian organization under laws of the state of Florida. We are dedicated to reaching out to the forgotten children in the orphanages of the **Dominican Republic** by providing humanitarian relief and meeting their spiritual needs.